

January 19

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA,
Elk Creek, Nebr., January 14, 1965.

HON. CARL T. CURTIS,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am writing you this little note of protest to let you know how I feel toward the closing of the veterans hospital at Lincoln, Nebr.

Mr. CURTIS, I have been around this hospital on several different occasions and have also been a patient there several different times. I know these veterans receive the best of care there, I know there are many who have limited income and to have to travel to some hospital more distant than Lincoln would be more of a drain on their funds. I hope you will see our side of the picture and also protest the closing of this unit.

I feel it is high time to economize but I don't believe we should do so at the expense of the veteran.

Sincerely yours,
WM. A. WERMAN,
Commander, District 13,
American Legion.

BEATRICE, NEBR.,
January 14, 1965.

HON. CARL T. CURTIS,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: We wish to express our feeling with regard to the close of the Veterans' Administration Hospital at Lincoln, Nebr.

We think that whatever will be saved in the close of the hospital will be added to the veteran's expenses and their families due to the extra cost in travel to and from the Veterans' Administration Hospital. All of the veterans from this area needing hospitalization use the Lincoln, Nebr., Veterans' Administration Hospital.

Any help you can be in preventing this action would be very much appreciated.

Please advise if there is any action on our part at this time that could be done to curb this.

Thanking you, we are,
Sincerely,

HERBERT UMPHENOUR,
Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
Geddes-Thober Post 1077.
JOHN STYSKAL,
Quartermaster.

LINCOLN, NEBR.,
January 14, 1965.

HON. CARL CURTIS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CURTIS: As commander of VFW Post 131 and as a member of the American Legion Post No. 3, both of Lincoln, Nebr., I wish to advise you that I strongly oppose the closing of our veterans hospital here in Lincoln.

In considering the future needs of the many veterans in Nebraska, parts of Iowa, and parts of Kansas, the area of which our hospital serves, it is felt that a great injustice will be done if this source of hospitalization is taken away from them.

It is my belief that the supposedly money saved by the closing of the hospital now is nothing but false economy when one considers the expenditures which will be required for future medical needs of our World War I, World War II, and Korean veterans.

Your support in preventing the closing of the hospital in Lincoln, Nebr., will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
DIETRICK P. FRYE.

LINCOLN, NEBR.,
January 15, 1965.

Senator CARL CURTIS,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: In regard to the closing of the VA hospital here in Lincoln isn't there something that our Senator can do to stop it. We are in need of it very bad. I am a World War I veteran and am getting old and need to go there every once in a while, and besides I am not the only one it will hurt. Please help us.

Sincerely,

LESTER V. FAY.

LINCOLN, NEBR.,
January 14, 1965.

Senator CARL CURTIS,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I am writing concerning the closing of Lincoln Veterans Hospital in Lincoln, Nebr.

It seems to me it is false economy to have funds for other projects to close a veteran's hospital.

My husband is World War II veteran—wheelchair since 1943—and we certainly need the hospital facilities close as he gets weekly treatment.

I am adjutant of the Disabled Americans Veterans Auxiliary and the chapter members of 250 here, need the services of this hospital, not a hundred miles from here. The World War II fellas are just getting in the age bracket where they'll need hospitalization.

I hope you see fit to try to reinstate the VA hospital here in Lincoln, Nebr.

Yours truly,

Mrs. JAMES L. FISHER.

PLYMOUTH, NEBR.,
January 15, 1965.

DEAR MR. CURTIS: I am writing you in regard to the closing of the veterans hospital at Lincoln, Nebr. I realize it is sound government to try and save the taxpayer's money, but I do not feel it is wise to save money by closing an institution which serves the men who risked their lives for this country. Another thing to consider is the fact that most of the veterans of World War II are reaching the age at which these services will be needed.

It is my sincere hope that you can see your way clear to do whatever is in your power to keep the veterans hospital at Lincoln, Nebr.

Yours truly,

HARLAN W. BURGER.

LINCOLN, NEBR.,
January 14, 1965.

Senator CARL CURTIS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CURTIS: The proposed closing of the Lincoln Veterans Hospital is about as politically stupid as anything we have seen. The President proposes billions for antipoverty and then fosters economic policies that deal devastating financial blows to areas that have been no prior problem. The airbase closing we accepted with good grace and in the knowledge that it was an essential move in the defense of the Nation. The VA closing isn't essential and could not come at a worse time. How much will be spent in Appalachia and elsewhere to create the number of jobs, 353, that will be eliminated here with this closing.

Good heavens, we all know that the national interest and purpose is best served by discarding facilities which are not needed but how they can justify this move in view of the recent building program is a mystery. It's a good guess, Senator CURTIS, that Uncle Sam will spend billions more than it costs to keep Lincoln open. What is being spent

here on the VA hospital is a mere pittance, a mere drop in the bucket compared to the billions that are poured into projects in New York, Texas, and California.

Just a quick review of the medical facilities and the number of consultants in the Lincoln area ought to have given priority to this hospital to have kept it open. The VA hospital had a most unique program being carried on the dialysis, in addition, it was one of the three institutions in the Nation now taking pictures inside the stomach of patients.

It seems that this part of the Nation is fast becoming on the short end of things when it comes to public spending at the national level. Let's hope, Senator CURTIS, that they will take a second look and keep the VA hospital open in Lincoln. One thing appears to be certain—keep it open, or should it close, the VA in Washington needs a good housecleaning.

Best of luck to you and during the session of Congress.

Cordially yours,

LARRY O'NELE.

LINCOLN, NEBR.,
January 14, 1965.

ADMINISTRATOR, VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION,
Hospital Division,
Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: The VA's decision to apparently close the Lincoln VA Hospital is certainly an example of gross mismanagement and lack of competent planning by some individuals at the VA headquarters. Your announcement claims the hospital has been under consideration for closing for years. Someone certainly showed their lack of intelligent analysis and appraisal of the situation for allowing the surgical suite, laboratory and pharmacy to be constructed. Even now, remodeling projects were in progress. Now one of the finest units in the United States will set idle. Surely the next step is to go wild and start building additions at either Grand Island or Omaha or go to another State and start new to satisfy someone's empire.

One of the Washington VA representatives made the statement that the Lincoln hospital had to be closed because the interest of the veterans comes first. Be sure to give that man a bonus and a prize, then let's try and see if the VA can't practice the philosophy that they preach. Thanks to your unsound decision, thousands of veterans in this area have been swept under the rug for medical care.

It is hoped that someone there at the VA headquarters can in the future use their imagination and foresight and anticipate better planning and stop this ratrace. Nobody's judgment is perfect and everyone makes a bad decision but let's hope you take a second look, it always pays and let's keep the Lincoln Veterans Hospital open.

Cordially yours,

LARRY O'NELE.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY,
U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL,
Lincoln, Nebr., January 14, 1965.

HON. CARL CURTIS,
Senate Chambers,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR CURTIS: As the wife of a service-connected amputee and a paraplegic veteran who has been a patient in the veterans hospital at Lincoln, Nebr., 8 years and who can come home for a few hours on Sunday through the use of a lift attached to the car operated by hospital nursing assistants and who is too heavy for one person to assist in the home, I am pleading with you to assist in rescinding the order to close this hospital.

ing of any international organization—must necessarily be speculative. No one has stated it formally. We can only see what is happening, read what is being said—and then use our God-given intelligence.

Perhaps that points to one of the greatest dangers of the times. We are not fighting a tangible program which can be faced and debated, but only an insidious trend. Trends are mighty tricky things to fight, as the people of Germany discovered in 1933.

This would be a grand hour for the old-time, fighting American liberals—if they were still on the scene. But unfortunately the movement in which they once joined is bankrupt. Some of its leaders have been shanghaied and taken on a political cruise which was never charted. Others are tired and dejected. The political power which they built up has been dissipated or subverted to opposite uses. The great American liberal movement which once spread its beneficent influence over both great parties has disappeared.

DEMAND

True, there are political leaders in both parties who take a strong stand against what is being done. But if they should be put in power, would they be strong enough, morally, to junk the enormously powerful and (to the driver) attractive governmental machine that has been created? Historically a mere policy of throwing the rascals out has never been entirely successful.

A demand from a few political leaders can be forgotten after the election; a demand from the American people can never be ignored. The thing that is needed is to bring about a re-awakening of embattled American liberalism, so that the people themselves will insist upon and get a restoration of the kind of liberty that made America great.

If we, the people, don't resist, day by day, the insinuating power of the government directive, the time may come in America when every lawyer will work for the bureaucracy and every newspaperman will get his copy from the ministry of propaganda, and every citizen will get his marching orders from Washington.

If that time should ever come it will not be because, to borrow another phrase, any one "planned it that way," but because we, the liberty-loving people, were too complacent—because we didn't start fighting in time.

SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. RIBICOFF. Mr. President, recent disclosures of continued persecution of persons of the Jewish faith in the Soviet Union, make it clear beyond question that such activities are conducted with premeditated design as part of Soviet policy to discount obvious failures in that nation's economy. Religious persecution anywhere is bad enough, but when a nation uses it as an instrument of national policy it becomes reprehensible and should be condemned as such. For that reason I intend to reintroduce, next week, the resolution approved by the Senate last year by a vote of 60 to 1 expressing the sense of the Congress that Soviet persecution of Jews and all other persons be condemned.

Last year the resolution was offered as an amendment to the then-pending foreign aid bill. Despite its almost unanimous approval on a rollcall vote, House and Senate foreign aid bill conferees struck the provision and replaced it with language generally condemning religious persecution of all peoples every-

where. While this action was commendable it cannot be taken as a substitute for the Senate-passed resolution condemning the Soviet Union, specifically, because of its policy of Jewish persecution.

This Soviet policy is not a mere historical throwback to the pogroms of the czars. It is even more insidious. It is designed, as the Washington Post pointed out yesterday, to protect the highest interests of the Soviet state—the need to deter economic crimes without shaking belief in the system itself.

The United States should take an official stand on the Soviet Government's systematic policy of attrition against the 3 million Jewish citizens of the U.S.S.R. The main components of that policy are: First, deprivation of cultural rights; second, deprivation of religious rights; third, the anti-Jewish propaganda campaign; fourth, the scapegoating of Jews; fifth, discrimination in education and employment; and, sixth, refusal of the right to emigrate.

It adds up to a policy of reducing the Jews to second-class citizenship in the U.S.S.R., of breaking their spirit and crushing their pride. It aims to shatter, pulverize, and gradually eliminate Jewish historical consciousness and Jewish identity. It goes beyond the usual form of religious persecution and becomes instead a spiritual strangulation—the deprivation of a people's natural right to know their past and to participate in their present. And without a past and a present, the future is precarious indeed.

I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD at this point an editorial from yesterday's Washington Post entitled "Soviet Anti-Semitism."

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM

An article published last August in the Ukrainian language press in the Soviet Union and which has just become available in the United States reports a trial of 48 people linked with a textile factory in Kiev and convicted of illegally manufacturing and selling textile goods. Of the people mentioned, most have Jewish names, including the two sentenced to death. Both this and earlier accounts of the case, one of which was subtitled "The Ark of a Haberdashery Noah," concentrated almost exclusively on the Jewish members of the gang and contained several anti-Semitic innuendos.

This is not an isolated case. Since the campaign against economic crimes began in 1961, the Soviet press has persistently given disproportionate coverage to Jewish defendants, portrayed the Jews as crafty, cunning, avaricious, etc., and has projected a generally negative image of the Jew. The U.S.S.R. is one of the few countries that impose capital punishment for economic crimes, and the number of Jews sentenced to be shot for economic crimes is vastly disproportionate to their numbers in the general population.

The fact that the Jews are being used as scapegoats for economic crimes in Russia—a phenomenon that is endemic in the system—is now generally recognized. Last year, the International Commission of Jurists released a 45-page study of economic crimes in the Soviet Union in which it concluded that the Kremlin was using Soviet Jews as scape-

goats to divert attention from the moral malaise in Russia. Economic crimes were being linked systematically to the image of the money-grabbing Jew of anti-Semitic fancy, said the Commission, because it would be dangerous to reveal the names and numbers of party officials and members who are caught in such crimes.

The Jews were thus the tragic victims of the highest interests of state—the need to deter economic crimes without shaking belief in the system itself. This is the only plausible explanation yet advanced for the semiofficial campaign of anti-Semitism in Russia.

Secretary of State Rusk said last April that the United States was considering what it might do to relieve the lot of Russian Jewry. Since then the situation seems to have worsened. The administration may be compelled to take notice of a growing crisis.

CLOSING OF VETERANS HOSPITALS

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, since the Veterans' Administration made its announcement of the rather widespread closing of veterans hospitals, the matter has had by attention. My interest in this matter is twofold: First, adequate hospital and medical care for our worthy veterans; second, the wisest planning for such care, taking into account both short range and long range costs as well as economies.

Mr. President, in answer to an inquiry I made of the Veterans' Administration, I have been informed that the peak load for hospitals for World War II veterans will not be reached until 1980. In other words there is going to be an increasing load on these hospitals for the next 15 years. While this increase will be felt more acutely in populous centers, the increase will be nationwide. I believe that when the committee goes into this matter of closing of veterans hospitals they should explore these figures and take these factors into account.

The Veterans' Administration is building more hospitals. They are improving hospitals. They are enlarging hospitals. I believe the committee should study the VA's expansion program and see how much expansion will be necessary by reason of the closing of existing hospitals. They should study the overlap and ascertain the savings that might be had, if any, by a national policy of greater use of existing hospitals rather than a building program.

Mr. President, the Lincoln Veterans' Hospital has done a good job. It has been well staffed. Local organizations both veteran and nonveteran have been most cooperative through the years. I believe that before it is closed the matter should be thoroughly studied to ascertain what is best for our veteran population.

There is wide interest, and a great degree of dismay, among Nebraskans about the closing of the facility at Lincoln, Mr. President. This interest and dismay is expressed by both veterans and nonveterans. My mail during the past week reflects this widespread concern.

I ask unanimous consent that a representative few of these letters may appear in the RECORD.